

+



## The Pickle Barrel Review



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTON  
MOUNTAIN DIGITAL RADIO ASSOCIATION

February 2026

---

### **Introduction**

Greetings to one and all, and once again welcome to the Pickle Barrel Review! As in the previous issues, you'll find this issue filled with the latest happenings not only of the W7NEO system, and the NE-OREGON room, but System Fusion, Allstar, along with GMRS. All that said, as always, we invite others to contribute with articles, or if your club or organization is having an event such as a tailgate, swap meet, VE testing, or whatever, you can list it here as well. The only thing we ask is that your contribution be nonpolitical (unless it's a government action that directly affects Ham, or GMRS Radio), respectful of others (no personal attacks), and relatively family friendly. We realize your pretty darn proud of it, but we really don't want to hear about your new tattoo, let alone just where exactly it's located on your body. And just to be clear, we apologize, but unfortunately your brother-in-law's bachelor party still doesn't qualify as an upcoming event. So, all that said, feel free to reach in the barrel, grab yourself a pickle, pull up a chair and have ah sit for a spell as we discuss the latest happenings in Fusion, Allstar, GMRS, and Personal Radio Communications in general. And for the record, you can rest assured that

every line of the PBR is a 100% AI free zone, and will remain so (As proof just look at all the mistakes!).

---

### **A word from our sponsor**

#### **Mary Jane's house of herbal delights:**

Mary is now pleased to announce that her doors are finally back open once again after certain legal complications forced their closing some months ago. Mary now offers a wide selection of herbal remedies, and home scents. Mary's large selection of naturally organic scented home products will help cover up those everyday odors when even cracking open a window just won't do the trick, no matter how wide or how many windows you crack open!

Mary is also pleased to offer a wide assortment of herbal remedies that will help you with not only the day-to-day aches and pains of a hard day's work, but can also help to make the trials and tribulations of everyday life in general just that much easier to deal with. After all, no worries, no cares, no problem!

So, the next time you find yourself sitting in a house with all the windows open praying for a nice strong breeze that never comes, and frustrated with life in general, come on down to Mary Jane's House of Herbal Delights, and let Mary hook you up with a totally fresh new outlook on life!

---

### **KD7CDC – SK**



On the morning of January 20, we lost a truly great Ham, and great human being in general within our community. Tom Houk (KD7CDC), at the age of just 47, passed peacefully in his sleep from what doctors determined to be a massive heart attack. That morning, his wife McKinsie (KI7LZO), had tired of his snoring, and gave him a nudge only to discover Tom to be unresponsive. In spite of first responders' best efforts, sadly Tom eventually passed.

Thomas “Tom” Keith Houck, formerly of St. Maries, Idaho, was deeply loved by all that knew him, endlessly funny, and one of those people whose presence filled a room—even when he was trying very hard to keep a straight face.

Tom was born on January 24, 1978, in Spokane, Washington, to Butch and Kathy Houck. He grew up in St. Maries, Idaho where he attended school and built a childhood full of curiosity, creativity, and connection. As a kid, Tom loved train sets and building model cars, he was active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts—earning the rank of Eagle Scout his senior year of high school—even having played the trumpet in the marching band. He graduated from St. Maries High School with the Class of 1996. The Flood of '96 left a lasting impression on him, and whenever he returned to St. Maries, he took time to remember and honor two of his classmates. Both of whom having perished in spite of hospital physician’s relentless efforts to restart their hearts after having fallen through the frozen river ice, and having been trapped for several hours in the intense cold of the flood waters—something that spoke quietly but powerfully to his heart.

After high school, Tom went to work for Paradise Amusements, traveling with the carnival—a job he would later call one of his absolute favorites. He made lifelong friends on the road, all of whom affectionately knew him as “Brother Tom.” After several years, Tom transitioned to working for Bulldog Towing out of Spokane, joking proudly that he had “finally gotten a real job” and entered the world of adulting.

During his time while working for the traveling Amusement company, Tom spent a brief two years in the Army reserves. Unfortunately, it was cut short after he was involved in a truck accident while working for the carnival company. During that time Tom served with honor and distinction.

In 2002, Tom was blessed with his daughter, Sierra, a role he cherished deeply. His career with Action Recovery Services later transferred him to the Tri-Cities, where he built a life full of stories, adventures, and no shortage of entertainment.

In October of 2010, Tom met McKenzie Larson on social media. According to Tom, McKenzie stalked him relentlessly across the internet until he finally gave in—though everyone else knew it was love from the start. The two

married on July 14, 2012, and made their home in Kennewick. Instantly Tom fell in love with her children Ashton and Alissa and lovingly raised them as his own. Tom spent 21 years working as a Repo Man, a job that gave him an endless supply of stories. He loved sharing his “interesting” encounters and the occasional “crazy” on Facebook, much to the amusement of friends and followers. His adventures of repossessing various vehicles, and the confrontations which inevitably ensued, came to be known as “Tom Stories,” and were enjoyed by many. One of the more memorable stories was of Tom phoning for help while on the ground in a Walmart parking lot with an angry (former) owner of a vehicle Tom had just repossessed, sitting on top of Tom punching him. What made it particularly funny was Tom’s ever calm demeanor over the phone as the sound of the angry attacker could be heard in the background.

Tom was the undisputed King of the Grill and a phenomenal cook. Food was absolutely part of his love language, and feeding people was one of the many ways he showed how much he cared. From a young age, he also had a deep interest in ham radio—his childhood home was known for its many antennas, and over the years he built a “ham family” he truly adored.

But above all else, Tom was a family man. He devoted his life to loving and taking care of McKenzie. She often rode along with him, and the two turned long drives transporting repossessed vehicles back from Yakima—into cherished date nights. Their time together was everything to him.

When Tom wasn’t working or spending time with family, you could find him gaming, cheering on the Green Bay Packers, or creating his famous TikToks. He had a dry, subtle humor—often delivered with a stoic face—leaving people guessing whether he was serious or joking (he usually wasn’t serious). Anyone who met Tom loved him instantly... unless, of course, he was repossessing their vehicle.

Tom loved trips to the river lot in St. Maries, time with family, and celebrating Paul Bunyan Days every year. If he couldn’t make it back for the celebrations, he faithfully watched the fireworks through friends’ Facebook posts—fireworks were one of his simple joys.

Tom was a simple man with a huge heart, a sharp wit, and a gift for making people feel at ease. He was a member of both the Living Room Community

Church in Kennewick, and the SSRA (Spout Springs Repeater Association). His laughter, love, and presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife, McKenzie Houck, at their home in Kennewick, Washington; his children, Alissa Larson of College Place, Washington, Sierra Meier of Spokane, Washington, and Ashton Larson of Moses Lake, Washington. Swisher of St. Maries, Idaho, Joe (Alyssa) Houck of Elk, Washington, and step-brother Matthew Shug of Boise, Idaho.

A Memorial Service will be held on January 30, 2026, at 11:00 am at the Living Room Community Church in Kennewick, WA with a meal provided afterwards. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at the Eagles Lodge in St. Maries, ID on February 7, 2026, at 11:00 am with a gathering of family and friends to share a meal following.

Our warmest, heartfelt condolences go out to a truly wonderful, and loving family for their loss of an equally great individual, Tom Houck.

The primary content to Tom's tribute was courtesy of McKinsie Houck (KI7LZO) via Timber Burton (N7DJE). My Sincere thanks to you both. Tom was a good man, and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

---

## Radio History



In the years leading up to WW2, America was in a state of both political, and social turmoil. With Hitler's Nazis and their "Brown Shirts," along with Mussolini and his "Blue Shirts" both spreading fascism, along with Antisemitism throughout Europe, the world of the 1930's was becoming less stable by the year. Add to that the expansionist ambitions of the Japanese Emperor Hirohito. Of course, it didn't help that during that time the US had its own group of fascists, "The Silver Legion of America," commonly known as, wait for it, the "Silver Shirts." This was an American fascist, pro-Nazi, and very Antisemitic organization that was founded by a man by the name of William Dudley Pelley, and headquartered in Asheville, North Carolina. So clearly fashion wasn't the only thing these groups had in common during that time.



*William Dudley Pelley, leader of the American Fascist group "The Silver Shirts."*

It was also becoming painfully clear that with these fascist leaders becoming more powerful, and equally more aggressive, that Europe was heading for the inevitability of yet another war. After having just been through the "war to end all wars," that being World War I (WW1), which lasted from July 28, 1914, to November 11, 1918, a period of just over four years, for most war just wasn't an option. With the memories of WWI still relatively fresh in most Americans' mind, the country was more in favor of taking a stance of isolationism, rather than get involved in yet another European war. The general feeling being that what was going on across the Atlantic was Europe's problem, not ours. Not wanting the US to interfere in their visions of European

conquest, Hitler's Nazi's worked very close with the American Fascist movement in order to not only build up an alliance, but to further strengthen the philosophy of isolationism among Americans, thereby providing unobstructed access to invade, and pillage Europe at will.

Fortunately, by around 1937, the Silver Legion's membership had declined to about 5,000. In 1936, a small Silver Shirt office was established in downtown Spokane, boasting a participation of about 200 members before the group's eventual dissemination. Fortunately, just a few short years later KARMA finally caught up with Mr. Pelley. On January 20, 1942, Pelley was sentenced to serve two to three years in prison by Superior Court Judge F. Don Phillips, in Asheville, North Carolina, for violating terms of his probation from a 1935 conviction for violating North Carolina security laws.

Germany eventually invaded Poland starting on September 1st, 1939 until October 6th, 1939. This was also known as the "September Campaign," or "Polish Campaign," and "Polish Defensive War" of 1939. Whatever it was eventually called, this was a joint attack on the Republic of Poland by Nazi Germany, the Slovak Republic, and the Soviet Union, which marked the beginning of World War II. Hitler's primary reason for invading Poland was not only that he wanted Germans to live there, but also that he considered Polish people to be inferior to Germans, with their only purpose being as a workforce to further construct the Nazi war machine. To the Pol's credit, there was ALLOT of sabotage among manufacturing, with German aircraft routinely exploding on the runway during flight tests, just to name a few incidences.

It's worth noting that at first, the Soviet Union officially maintained neutrality during WW2, but cooperated with, and assisted Germany. As was evident from their participation in the invasion of Poland. But after the Nazis attacked the USSR on June 22, 1941, all bets were off, and the country allied with the United Kingdom, and then the United States once the war began in earnest.

Finally, in March of 1941, the Lend-Lease Program, established by the Lend-Lease Act, became a U.S. policy allowing President Roosevelt to supply the United Kingdom, Soviet Union, China, France, and other Allies at the time with war materials, food, and oil. This enabled the US to help them fight the

Axis Powers without the U.S. actually entering World War II directly. This act provided essential military hardware (tanks, planes, ships, etc.) and supplies, shifting from "cash-and-carry" to deferred payment, and proved crucial in sustaining the Allies until the U.S. formally joined the war later on that same year.

With the bombing of Pearl Harbor Hawaii in December of 1941 by the Japanese, the attitude of isolationism quickly began to shift to one more of public anger instead. As evidence of this, the saying "Remember Pearl Harbor" originated as a powerful national rallying cry immediately after the surprise Japanese attack, becoming a patriotic slogan that fueled American entry into World War II. The U.S. officially entered World War II on December 8, 1941, when Congress declared war on Japan following the attack on Pearl Harbor the previous day, with Germany and Italy declaring war on the U.S. days later on December 11, 1941, thereby fully engaging the nation in the global conflict.

Once in the fight, the US was able to bring its full industrial might to bear in the manufacturing of military hardware. One such piece of hardware which proved particularly devastating was the heavy bomber. Particularly the Boeing B-17 flying Fortress which, on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1935, made its first flight at Boeing Field in Seattle. The name "Flying Fortress" was coined by a newsman present during the initial rollout in reference to all the many gun barrels protruding from the fuselage.



*Initial rollout of B-17, Boeing plant Seattle WA. July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1935.*

The first flight lasted about an hour and a half, and after landing, Chief Test Pilot, Leslie (“Les”) Tower commented; “It handles just like a little ship—a little bigger, of course.” The mighty B-17 Heavy Bomber, and the B-24 Liberator, along with many other now famous allied bombers, including the British Lancaster, went on to make their mark in history primarily in Europe, where they successfully leveled the nazi war machine in their path.



*WW2 British Lancaster Heavy bomber.*

It was during this time that allied bomber radio operators played a crucial role as aircrew members. WW2 Aviation Radiomen (or Wireless Operators in the RAF) were both critical aircrew, and ground personnel responsible for maintaining, operating, and repairing aircraft radio equipment. In addition to handling vital Voice/Morse code communications for command, navigation, and tactical coordination. If that wasn’t enough, they often served as gunners, while at the same time dealing with sensitive classified materials in high-stress combat environments. These radiomen were present on everything from carriers to bombers to ensure air-to-ground, air-to-air, and ship-to-shore contact.



*U.S. Army Air Corp WW2 Radioman Insignia PIN.*

The radiomen of the sky were trained extensively in Morse code, electronics, and aircraft systems at places such as Scott Field, Illinois, and Truax Field,

Wisconsin. They handled coded messages, assisted navigators with positioning, and defended against enemy fighters, all while operating complex equipment such as R1155 receivers, and trailing wire antennas primarily on B-17s.



*Military radio receiver R-1155 by Marconi design. (1940)*

Some Key Responsibilities for the radiomen included communications by maintaining contact with ground control and other bombers on command, liaison, and emergency frequencies, often using Morse Code. Can you just imagine how it must have been communicating with the air traffic control tower all via morse code? Along with that was Navigation, by assisting the navigator with taking bearings, while operating advanced equipment such as IFF (Identification Friend or Foe), and VHF radio.

Emergency Duties included the releasing of flares in order to signal other aircraft for formation changes or if there was wounded onboard. The Defense of the aircraft included manning of a flexible machine gun (often a .50 caliber) to defend the aircraft's upper fuselage area. Later on in the war, they would release chaff from chutes in their compartment as part of RADAR countermeasures in order to confuse enemy RADAR.

Additionally, as if all this wasn't enough to keep them busy, the radio operator's job was also to monitor the bomb group's frequencies for changes to the flight plan, and to enable the pilot to broadcast to other planes in the formation. The radio operator was also a "record keeper" - he logged all radio events as well as noting things such as which planes went down, when and

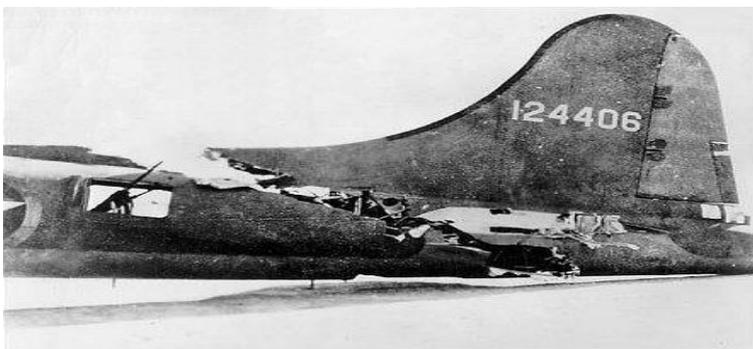
where, the number of parachutes seen bailing out of the plane, etc. The radio operator was also usually responsible for tending to wounded crewmembers.



*WW2 RAF Radioman on position, onboard a Lancaster Heavy Bomber.*

Their station was conveniently located in a key spot in the B-17, which was situated behind the bomb bay, and before the waist gunners. This offered the radiomen an unobstructed view of the bomb bay in case of problems, such as hung bombs.

Needless to say, like most of the heavy bomber crews, many radiomen experienced many a harrowing experience during their many missions. Some even living to tell their stories, detailing the constant threat from enemy fighters and flak, with some surviving as prisoners of war (POWs). They often performed acts of bravery, tending to wounded crewmates, or ensuring the plane's integrity after having been hit.



*Even after extensive battle damage, aircraft and crew made it back home to fly another day.*

I can still remember as a young boy being captivated by my Uncle John's stories of his time onboard B-26's as a navigator flying missions over Europe during WW2. Stories such as the time the tail of their B-26 bomber fell off after having landed, as the crew was disembarking, resulting from a combination of having been shot up during the mission, along with all the shrapnel from anti-aircraft batteries. To having been shot down, and thanks to the underground resistance, making his way back to allied territory while hidden in a hay wagon.

Now days military aviation communications systems are far in advance from the days of WW2. With the advent of satellite, voice and data encryption, along with frequency hopping, not to mention laser, it's safe to say that it's an entirely different place from the world our brave aviators faced in WW2.



*The worlds most advanced heavy Stealth bomber, the B-2 "Spirit."*

So, remember those truly brave aviators - along with all of our brave war Veterans in general - that went before us, and their undeniable dedication, and sacrifice for the cause of keeping our world free and secure from those that would seek to take it all away, and destroy our Democracy. It's a constant battle in order to uphold our Democracy, a battle that we must always remain ever vigilant in order to protect and preserve our freedoms.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

---

## Cell Phone Outage



On January 14, 2026, Verizon wireless, a major nationwide wireless network provider, experienced a massive system outage. The outage lasted for over 10 hours, affecting millions of customers with "SOS" mode issues.

"SOS Mode" on a smartphone, means it's disconnected from your carrier's network but can still make emergency calls (like 911) by using other available networks. This appears in the status bar when there's no normal signal, often due to poor coverage, or network issues.

In this case, Verizon confirmed that the service outage was caused by a "software issue" during a 5G core update, and not as the result of a cyberattack, as many had assumed. The glitch, which occurred during a software update, was likely the result of cascading failures within the network. Service was impacted nationwide, affecting millions of users' ability to connect to the Verizon network. Fortunately, the software issue was resolved by 10 p.m. ET that same day. Experts suggest the issue originated from a failed update to a Virtual Network Function (VNF) within the networks core. Some analysts suggesting that the timing of the outage may have indicated a minor "fat finger" mistake. Or in more official terms, a human error during the update process.

One serious issue with a widespread network outage such as this one was the significantly hindered ability for users of the system to make 911 calls from affected devices. While SOS mode is designed to allow emergency calls via

other carrier networks, in this particular case the severity of the outage may just have prevented 911 connectivity entirely. This would force reliance on landlines, Wi-Fi calling, or other alternatives. Although, in some areas, SMS texting (Short Message Service) to 911 may work even when voice calls fail. However, that may not always be the case.

It should be noted that in many instances due to major cell phone providers leasing resources out to smaller cell phone providers, outages could very well affect additional cell phone services. Services such as T Mobile, AT&T, etc.

This is where we as Amateur Radio, along with GMRS operators come in. Amateur Radio, and GMRS are what is termed the by the Federal Communications Commission as a “Personal Radio Service,” and can typically serve as a critical, independent communication lifeline when 911 services fail. In most all cases, Ham Radio typically operates without the need for cellular towers or internet infrastructure. Not only can licensed operators transmit during an emergency, but in life-threatening emergencies, anyone may use amateur equipment to request for help. It bridges gaps using local repeaters, High Frequency (HF) bands, or direct radio-to-radio communication (simplex). In accordance with [FCC 97.403](#), in a life-threatening situation individuals are allowed to use any means necessary in order to secure help. Furthermore, in an emergency, an unlicensed person can use a ham radio, or GMRS radio if no other methods are available.

On Thursday, January 23, 2015 Amateur radio operators, as part of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) in Walla Walla, Washington, were activated in response to a major 911 service failure. This occurred when a backhoe operator near Lewis Road in Pasco cut a major fiber optic cable. The resulting damage was a severed 911 dispatch circuit that interrupted phone services for Walla Walla and surrounding counties. Upon activation by local emergency management, members of the Walla Walla ARES chapter immediately deployed in order to provide communications backup for critical facilities, which included, among others, nursing homes.

The outage in Walla Walla had begun around 1:30 p.m. and was not fully restored until approximately 5:30 p.m. During this incident, attempts to

reroute the 911 system were unsuccessful, leaving amateur radio as a vital link for emergency communications.

So, as you can see, Amateur Radio, and GMRS both play key roles in these sorts of situations. Situations which can take place at any moment, and without any warning what's so ever.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

---

## **Legal Corner**

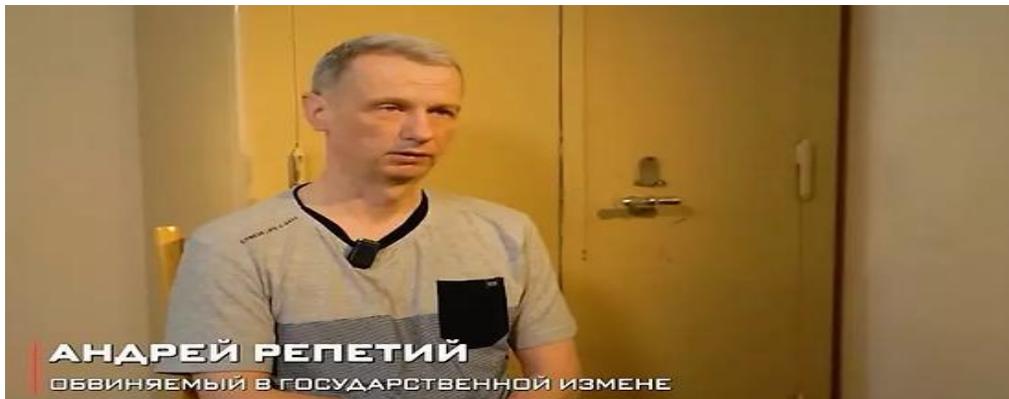


I recently received the following news article from the HiDARG Groups I/O. I will apologize if this seems abit political, which is something we try very hard to avoid here at the WMDRA. But if after having read this it seems like something that only takes place in third world, authoritarian regimes, you might want to take another look at what's been happening to our legacy media here in America lately. Remember, that here in the United States the first amendment to our Constitution protects free speech, which includes freedom of the press. But that doesn't mean it's not under constant threat by those seeking unchecked control over the media, and the unredacted flow of information to the general public. Just days before posting this newsletter two journalists were arrested in Minneapolis for simply covering a story in a local church, and giving the American public the true story. As far as Amateur Radio is concerned, remember, our current administration has threatened to invoke the War Powers Act on more than one occasion. If you'll recall a previous

article in the PBR, the last time the War Powers Act was initiated was during WW2. During that period Amateur Radio was at first greatly restricted, then silenced entirely until the wars end. I'll leave it there for now in order for it to sink in while you think about it...

So, with all that said, I present the following “unedited” article for your reading enlightenment:

## **Amateur Radio Operators in Belarus Arrested, Face the Death Penalty**



*One of seven Belarus Amateur Radio Operators facing possible death sentence.*

The Belarusian government is threatening three ham radio operators with the death penalty, detained at least seven people, and has accused them of “intercepting state secrets,” according to Belarusian state media, independent media outside of Belarus, and the Belarusian human rights organization Viasna. The arrests are an extreme attack on what is most often a wholesome hobby that has a history of being vilified by authoritarian governments in part because the technology is quite censorship resistant.

The detentions were announced last week on Belarusian state TV, which claimed the men were part of a network of more than 50 people participating in the amateur radio hobby and have been accused of both “espionage” and “treason.” Authorities there said they seized more than 500 pieces of radio equipment. The men were accused on state TV of using radio to spy on the

movement of government planes, though no actual evidence of this has been produced.

State TV claimed they were associated with the Belarusian Federation of Radio Amateurs, and Radio Sportsmen (BFRR), a long-running amateur radio club and nonprofit that holds amateur radio competitions, meetups, trainings, and forums. WhatsApp and email requests to the BFRR from 404 Media were not returned.

On Reddit, Siarhei Besarab, a Belarusian amateur radio operator, posted a plea for support from others in the hobby: "MAYDAY from Belarus: Licensed operators facing death penalty."

"I am writing this because my local community is being systematically liquidated in what I can only describe as a targeted intellectual genocide," Besarab wrote. "They have detained over 50 licensed people, including callsigns EW1ABT, EW1AEH, and EW1ACE. These men were paraded on state television like war criminals and were coerced to publicly repent for the "crime" of technical curiosity. Propagandists presented the Belarusian Federation of Radio Amateurs and Radio Sportsmen (BFRR) as a front for a 'massive spy network.'"

"State propaganda unironically claims these men were 'pumping state secrets out of the air' using nothing more than basic \$25 Baofeng handhelds and consumer-grade SDR dongles," he added. "Any operator knows that hardware like this is physically incapable of cracking the modern AES-256 digital encryption used by government security forces. It is a technical fraud, yet they are being charged with High Treason and Espionage. The punishment in Belarus for these charges is life in prison or the death penalty."

The Belarusian human rights group Viasna and its associated Telegram channel confirmed the detention and said that it spoke to a cellmate of Andrei Repetsi, who said that Repetsi was unable to talk about his case in jail: "The case is secret, so Andrei never told the essence of the case in the cell. He joked that his personal file was marked "Top secret. Burn before reading,'" Viasna wrote.

Most hams operate amateur radios for fun, as part of competitions, or to keep in touch with other hams around the world. But the hobby has a long history of being attacked by governments in part because it is resistant to censorship. Amateur radio often works even if a natural disaster or political action takes down internet, cell, and phone services, so it is popular among people interested in search and rescue and doomsday prepping. Amateur radio has been used to share information out of Cuba, for example, and in 2021 the Cuban government jammed ham radio frequencies during anti-government protests there.

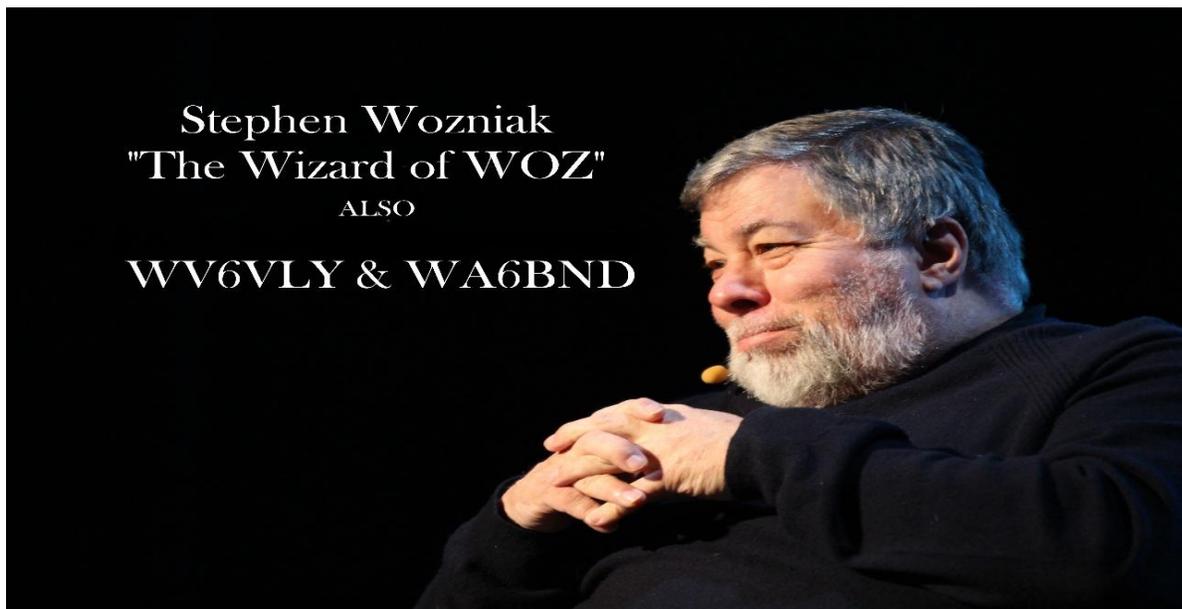


[Jason Koebler](#)

404 Media

---

## **Ham Radio Nostalgia**



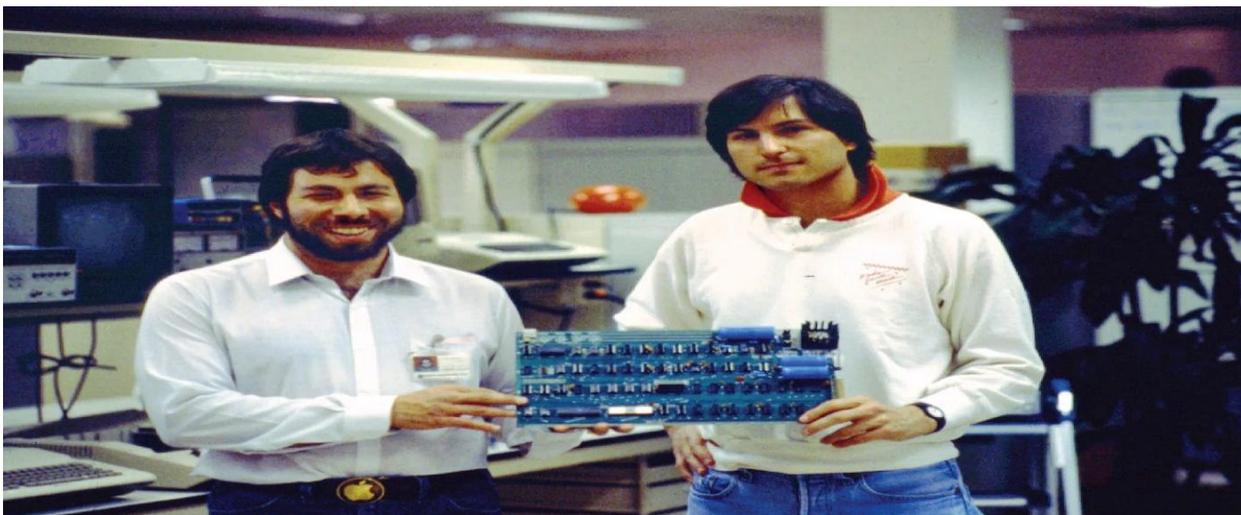
*Steve Wozniak (born 1950), co-founder of Apple Computer, and licensed amateur radio operator.*

Stephen Wozniak obtained his novice license, WV6VLY, at age 10 while in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. His early experience building radio kits, and operating Ham Radio helped to spark a lifelong passion for electronics and engineering. At age 11 Wozniak built his own Ham Radio station, which gave him the fundamentals of electronics through Amateur Radio before having built his first computer at age 13. Wozniak's background in electronics further enabled his work with the Homebrew Computer Club, where he developed the Apple I.



*Christmas 1960, ten-year-old Steve Wozniak operating a Hallicrafter radio transceiver kit which he had built, while obtaining his novice license (WV6VLY).*

Wozniak would later recount that it was his father who taught him much of what he knows about science and technology. After having successfully worked his way up to Extra Class, he received the call sign WA6BND. Sixteen years later, in 1976, Wozniak would go on to co-found Apple Computer with Steve Jobs. Initially, Wozniak served as vice president in charge of research and development.



Steve Wozniak, and Steve Jobs, founders of Apple Computer.

The following year, Wozniak introduced his Apple II personal computer, featuring a central processing unit, a keyboard, color graphics, and a floppy disk drive all consolidated into one unit. The Apple II was integral in having launched the personal computer industry. He was also credited with having been a major influence of the popular Macintosh Apple computer. Currently he is listed as the sole inventor on four Apple patents. As a result, he has been credited with creating the personal computer revolution. Although Wozniak remains an employee of Apple Computers, with a salary of \$50 a week, he has since effectively left the company in order to pursue other ventures.



Steve Wozniak with the first Apple II personal computer.

In 1981, Stephen returned to UC Berkeley, and successfully completed his degree in Electrical Engineering / Computer Science. To date, Wozniak has received ten Honorary Doctor of Engineering degrees.

Steve Wozniak -known simply as “Woz” to all of his friends - has received numerous additional honors throughout his lifetime. Including for his achievements at Apple, he was awarded the National Medal of Technology by President Ronald Reagan in 1985, which is the highest honor to be bestowed upon America’s leading innovators. In 2000, he was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame, and was awarded the prestigious Heinz Award for Technology. Think of just what this guy’s “I love me wall” must look like.

With a keen eye on the future of computing, Wozniak has been involved in various business and philanthropic ventures. Focusing primarily on computer capabilities in schools, and stressing hands-on, experiential learning that encourages creativity

and innovation by young students. Having made significant investments of both his time and resources in education, he adopted the Los Gatos School District, in Los Gatos California where he currently resides, providing students and teachers with hands-on teaching and donations of state-of-the-art technology equipment. By doing this, Steve has imparted his lifelong passion for mathematics and electronics toward lighting the fires of excitement for education in grade school students, as well as their teachers.



Steve Wozniak teaching a computer class in 1995.

If all that wasn't enough, he also founded the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and was the founding sponsor of the Tech Museum, Silicon Valley Ballet, and Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. In 2014, he was awarded the Hoover Medal, a prestigious honor given for "outstanding extra-career services by engineers to humanity." He was also inducted into the Industry Week Manufacturing Hall of Fame. In 2015, Wozniak received the Legacy for Children Award from the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. The Legacy for Children Award honors individuals whose legacy has significantly benefited both the learning, and the lives of children. The Cal Alumni Association (UC Berkeley's Alumni Association) presented Wozniak with the 2015 Alumnus of the Year Award.

Wozniak continues to pursue his entrepreneurial and philanthropic interests to this very day. In October 2017, Steve co-founded Woz U — a postsecondary education and training platform focused on software engineering and technology development.

Finally, Steve appeared in one of my personal favorites; “*The Big Bang Theory*, Season 4,” as himself. This was in Episode 2, titled "The Cruciferous Vegetable Amplification," which aired on September 30, 2010.

Currently when Steve and his wife, Janet, are not traveling the world trying to inspire the next generation, or building sustainable businesses, they live a happy life in Los Gatos, California with their four Bichon Frieze dogs.

Although I searched high and low I was unable to find any mention of Steve having continued his earlier passion for Amateur Radio. His last callsign (WA6BCD) has since been reissued to a Ham in Kansas, who intern changed his call to a one-by-two.

Steve Wozniak has always been known by those close to him as being adamant about always telling the truth. As you can see, he also puts young minds at the forefront of most everything he sets out to accomplish. If we are to make our future world a better place than that which we leave behind, it’s people such as “The Wizard of Woz” that are going to forge that path by making themselves a shining example in order for future generations to strive to achieve.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

---

## **Repeater Updates**



*Weston Mt. GMRS repeater Antenna.*

Here's hoping that everyone is staying warm, and cozy in their shacks, and that winter band conditions are still providing hours of enjoyment.

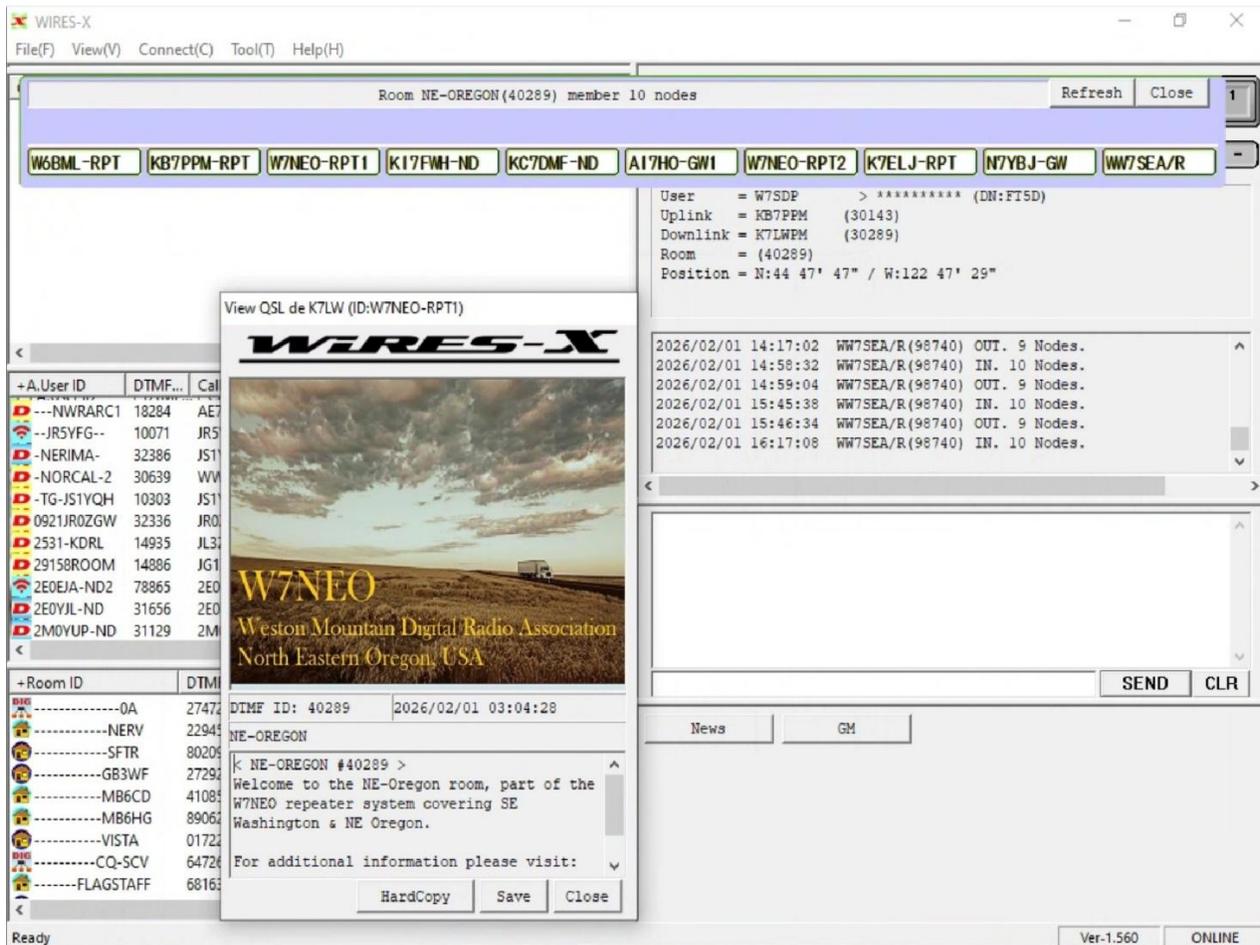
There's nothing much in the way of repeater work to report, since most all of our sites are snowed in, or just plain too muddy to safely navigate. But we have managed to make some progress towards obtaining a couple of new repeater sites for this upcoming spring and summer. So, stay tuned!

Speaking of new repeaters. Hopefully by this summer there will be a new 220MHz machine covering a portion of NE Oregon, along with parts of SE Washington. Rhett Rogers (N2SRX) has been in the process of trying to put up a machine for a couple of months now, and this past month he contacted our group to ask for help. Not wanting to miss an opportunity to stand up another local repeater, we gladly accepted the request, and have been using our many contacts with other repeater owners in order to locate Rhett the equipment necessary in order to install a new 220Mhz repeater. We've also offered to show him our sites in hopes that he might get a few ideas, and be able to ask questions in order to help in the construction of his own installation. The Hermiston Amateur Radio Club has also offered to assist Rhett in his project. So hopefully over the next few months we'll be able to launch a community effort, and report some positive progress, and maybe even pass along the frequency and tone. I should clarify that Rhett isn't a member of the WMDRA, but he is a good person, trying to accomplish something good for the local Ham Radio community.

As far as MESHTastic, we've been making good progress there as well. We checked out a couple of 900 MHz antennas we had in the spares pile for compatibility of operation on MESHTastic repeater frequencies. As it turned out both antennas dialed in perfectly. These antennas offer improved gain on 900 Mhz over the regular antennas provided with the MESHTastic repeaters. So at least one of the antennas is going to be installed at the Spout Springs site when the snow melts, and we can once again access that site. Hopefully, as is the case with our packet node located at Spout Springs, we'll be able to provide a reliable link between Union, Wallowa counties, and the west side of the Blue Mountains in general.

In mid-January we began a new service over our Allstar network hosted by the folks at the [Pend Oreille County Radio Group](#)'s W7POC repeater, 146.900, with a PL of 100.0. The service is Ham Radio Newsline, and is now being broadcast every Saturday night at 8:00pm local PST. I still remember listening to Newsline back in the mid 70's when it was "Westlink," hosted by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF-SK). So be sure to tune in and check it out, and many thanks to Shannon Mossman (W6SPY) of Newport Washington near Diamond Lake, for sharing that with the rest of the folks on the system.

Lastly, I was recently asked how it is that I see what goes on within both our analog and digital systems. So, here are the dashboards of the two systems that myself, and other control operators of the system view in order to control the two systems, and keep them running smoothly for each one of you, the users.



The WireX Dashboard for the NE-OREGON Room.

This is what we use in order to keep an eye on the NE-OREGON room, while at the same time keeping things running smooth, by staying alert for any problems, or potential problems on WiresX.

Node	Description	Last Recv	Conn Time	Direction	Connect State	Mode
42137	W7UPS Nine Mile Falls Washington	02:07:57	160:46:55	OUT	ESTABLISHED	Transceive
48847	WV7SEA 444.700+ QA RX Queen Anne, Seattle, WA	26:35:18	10:58:30	OUT	ESTABLISHED	Transceive
49465	W7POC POCRG.org NE WA Hub Diamond Lake, WA	71:33:48	00:00:01	OUT	CONNECTING	Connecting
60259	K7SE Meridian/Idaho	Never	220:49:28	OUT	ESTABLISHED	Transceive
64363	N7SH Richland/WA	Never	28:36:10	OUT	ESTABLISHED	Transceive
536181	W7NEO 441.700Mhz Athena, OR	Never	00:00:01	OUT	CONNECTING	Connecting

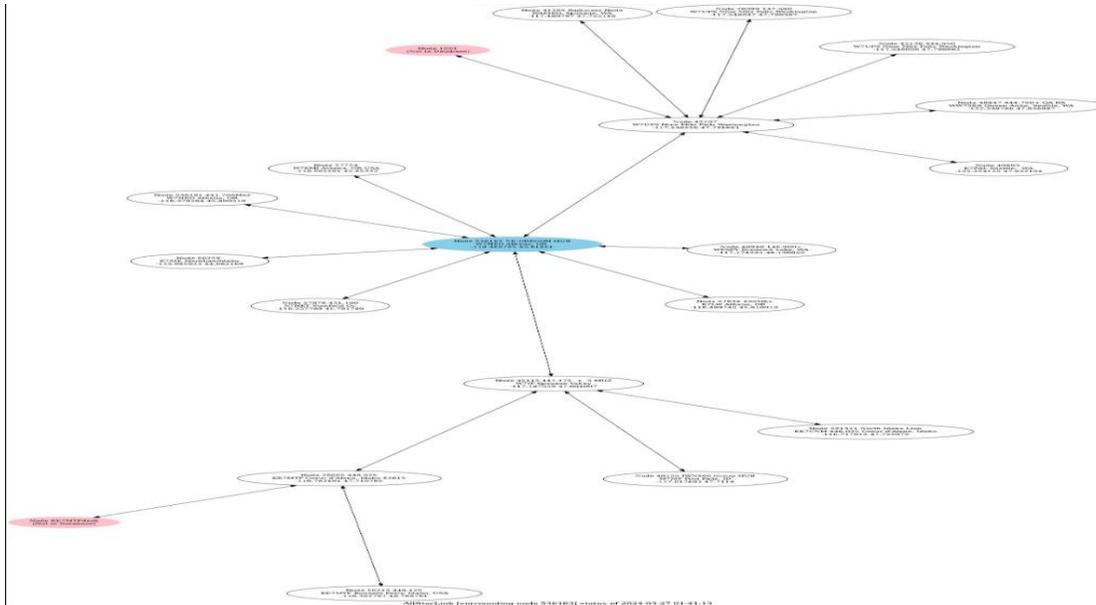
### *The Allstar Dashboard for the Allstar System (Supermon).*

Above is the Allstar dashboard, or “Supermon,” where I can see the status of, and control each node that’s currently connected to the Allstar hub (NE-OREGON HUB). I can connect, and disconnect nodes, along with diagnosing both the connection, and network status, along with a few more actions in order to manage the Allstar hub.

Lastly is the bubble chart which shows all of the connections throughout the system at any one given point in time.

Like the WiresX dashboard, you can see by all the “bubbles” representing the nodes connected to the system, that the Allstar system stretches over much of the Pacific Northwest. Although I can’t take full credit for watching over the system. As we like to say; “It takes a village to raise a child.”

Our group, along with others that make up the two systems are always looking for ways with which to improve upon the system overall. Ways such as upgrading our emergency backup power capabilities, and adding more features to the two systems overall.



The Bubble Chart, showing all the (Allstar) connections on the system at any one time. For a more current graph click [here](#), and search for node#536183

Well, that's about it for now. So, until next time, here's hoping everyone is enjoying the winter band conditions, while still managing to stay warm.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

---

## **VE Testing**

There is no VE testing going on that we're aware of, but if you check the Links section of our website, there may be information on some of our friend's websites as to where you might find a test session going on near you. But in the meantime, if you do have a regular test session taking place, feel free to let us know, and we'll post it here in the next issue of the Pickle Barrel Review.

---

## **The End**

Well, that's about it for this edition of the Pickle Barrel Review, I hope you enjoyed it. And a big shout out goes out to John Vocht (KA7DRE) for this month's cartoon, thanks John! In the meantime, we'll continue to work hard to

keep each and every issue as informative, fun, and interesting as the previous issues.

So, until next time, we here at the WMDRA (W7NEO) hope everyone is enjoying the winter band conditions, and staying safe in spite of the hazardous road conditions.

As always, feel free to reach in the barrel and grab another pickle. There's plenty to go around, along with plenty more great conversation, and maybe even a touch of rhetoric here and there!

73!

Weston Mountain Digital Radio Association,  
W7NEO

---



---

*“The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.”*

— *Martin Luther King Jr.*

